CHAPTER V.—FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Production

520. *Multiplication and Distribution of improved varieties of seeds and setting up of Seed Farms :—* The use of improved seed is one of the most important recommended practices for increasing the crop yields as improved varieties give better yields on account of increased production, capacity, resistance to drought and disease, timely maturity, etc., of the seed and it was planned to cover the entire area within the stipulated period covering one-fourth of total area with improved seeds every year. There was a total of 51 farms as against 56 allotted for the Second Plan period. Out of them 48 farms were under crops and remaining three were under different stages of reclamation. The area sown during khariff and rabi season was 1,070 and 259 acres respectively.

521. *Distribution of fertilizers.*—The demand for fertilizers has been on the increase year after year as a result of intensive propaganda particularly under Rabi and Khariff Campaigns. A total quantity of 37,815 tons of fertilizers was allotted by the Government of India.

522. The distribution of fertilisers was made mainly through co-operative societies in accordance with the accepted policy of Government. A quantity of 23,500 tons of Superphosphate was allocated to the State.

523. *Manufacture and distribution of urban compost* :—Composting of all wastes collected in local board institutions with a population of 5,000 and above and having sanitary services was organised on an intensive scale.

524. The total number of towns preparing compost at the end of the year was 211 with a population of 37,36,423 and a quantity of 2,51,100 tons of compost from town refuse including 7,465 tons from other resources was prepared in the State as against 2,14,135 tons distributed. A sum of Rs. 1,06,519 was spent as subsidy to the ryots for meeting the transport charges at Rs. 2 per ton of compost. Loans were also granted to the deserving municipalities to enable them to purchase transport vehicles.

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

525. *Procurement and Distribution of green manure seeds.*—Popularisation of green manuring in the areas particularly with assured supply of water was taken up to improve the general fertility of the soil. Sunhemp and sesbania and other seeds and large quantities of glyricidia cuttings as well as seedlings were procured and supplied.

526. *Supply of electrical and diesel oil engine pumpsets etc.*,—In order to help the ryots having irrigation wells, 187 diesel oil and electrical pumpsets were issued on hire-purchase system which benefitted an area of 935 acres.

527. *Plant Protection.*—The primary purpose of the scheme was to effectively check and prevent attack of pests and diseases to crops by timely treatment provided by the technical staff of the Department. Provision was made for the supply of insecticides free of cost to the tune of Rs. 93,220 in case of large scale outbreak of pests and diseases. The departmental equipment was strengthened by adding equipment to the tune of Rs. 1,25,000. Dusters and sprayers to the tune of Rs. 3,72,800 were supplied at 50 per cent of the cost to the cultivators for taking immediate measures in case any pest was noticed. Under this scheme an area of one lakh acres affected by pests and diseases was treated with the assistance of the Departmental Staff.

528. *Japanese method of Paddy Cultivation.*—The adoption of Japanese method of paddy cultivation for increasing the production of rice was intensively taken up in the paddy growing areas. Technical advices and materials like improved seeds, fertilizers, weeders were supplied to the cultivators. An area of 4,86,390 acres was brought under Japanese method of paddy cultivation in various Districts of the State.

529. *Development of Local* Manurial *Resources in villages.*—The scheme for development of local manurial resources was meant for organising individual ryots in the rural parts for larger and better utilisation of the agricultural, cattle and human wastes and organising ways for compost making; development of local manurial resources by growing suitable *gliricidia* and *pongamia*; and utilisation of compost production. The programme under

this scheme is to select progressive and intelligent village leaders in each village and give them training in improved methods of making compost and developing local manurial resources. The programme is concentrated on rural areas in the selected Community Development, National Extension Services Blocks. The programme of work was continued in 27 blocks.

530. *Construction of Irrigation Wells.*—With a view to increasing the area under irrigation particularly in scarcity areas, financial assistance by way of loans and subsidy was extended to the cultivators to enable them to sink the irrigation wells. The amount of subsidy payable per well was Rs. 250 and loans were also extended in deserving cases not exceeding Rs. 750 per well. One thousand and twelve wells were completed benefitting 2,024 acres of land.

531. *Tractor and Bulldozer serviees.*—The 40 tractors and 40 bulldozers of the Department were hired out to cultivators with a view to help them in cultivation of fallow lands as well as reclamation of waste lands. Eighteen new tractors were also supplied to agriculturists on hire purchase system. There was much demand for tractor service throughout the State. Tractors ploughed 6,282 acres and bulldozers reclaimed 1,068 acres of land.

532. *Land reclamation by manual labour.*—The financial assistance by way of subsidy was given to the cultivators for land reclamation by manual labour in Coorg and other malnad districts where it was not possible to reclaim the lands by bulldozers. Subsidy at 25 per cent of the total estimated cost not exceeding Rs. 50 per acre was allowed to the cultivators as financial assistance under this scheme.

533 *Rabi and Khariff Camaigns.*—The Rabi and Khariff Campaigns launched to improve the production of important food crops like paddy, jowar, wheat, etc., were continued and intensified to achieve the target of 13.51 lakhs acres. Intensive steps were taken to advise the ryots to adopt improved agricultural practices in respect of each crop, using improved treated seeds, fertilizers etc.

534. It is revealed from the assessment of results carried out that the production has increased to the extent

of 7 per cent over the last three years average in respect of khariff production and 12 per cent in respect of rabi.

535. *Extension of power lines for lift irrigation*:— The scheme envisages the drawing up of power lines to extend supply of power to run irrigation pumpsets and is operated by the Mysore State Electricity Board. This not only helps the farmers to increase the areas under irrigation but also ensures timely and adequate supply of water for irrigation making them independent of vagaries of rains and thus helps them raise two crops in a year. The number of sets serviced is 2,037.

536. *Supply of Iron and Steel*:—The Department continued to procure and arrange for distribution of iron and steel for agricultural purposes, during the year. The total quantity of 29,256 tons of iron and steel was also allotted by the Government of India.

General.

537. As a result of the implementation of the several schemes coming under Grow More Food Campaign, a total production of 91,000 tons of additional food grains was achieved exclusive of the Major and Minor Irrigation programmes executed by the Public Works Department.

(ii) Food Supplies.

538. The activities of the Food Supplies Department during the year 1959-60 were directed mainly towards the procurement of rice at rates fixed by Government, so as to stabilise the prices.

539. The Mysore Rice Procurement (Levy) Order promulgated in January 1959 was in force during the early part of the year, but the main operative portions of the Order requiring the licensed millers and dealers to sell to Government at controlled rates, 50 per cent of the stocks of rice purchased, acquired or held by them were repealed by amendments issued during the year.

540. A major change of food policy during the year was the decision of the State Government, in consonance with the All India Policy, not to procure paddy, rice during the Harvest of 1960.

541. As regards the "*Modus operandi*" of procurement, special arrangements were made in the case of Mysore, Mandya and Tumkur Districts. Under the